











SILENOS...
WHAT IS MY
BROTHER
THINKING?

THIS BATTLE
WAS ALL BUT
ASSURED
AND YET,
HE ALLOWED
IT TO SLIP
AWAY...



...
PYRRHUS.



SAYING
SOMETHING
ABOUT A
PYRRHIC
VICTORY...



AROUND
FIFTY YEARS
AGO HE
MANAGED TO
THOROUGHLY
CRUSH THE
ROMAN
LEGIONS
ON TWO
OCCASIONS
USING WAR
ELEPHANTS.

HOWEVER, THE
HORRENDOUS
LOSSES
SUSTAINED
BY HIS OWN
FORCES MEANT
THAT THOUGH
HE HAD WON
THE BATTLE,
HE HAD LOST
THE WAR.



PYRRHUS
OF
EPIRUS...

A MAN WHO
HANNIBAL
CONSIDERS
TO BE A
STRATEGICAL
MASTERMIND,
SECOND
ONLY TO
ALEXANDER
THE GREAT.



BUT WE
FINALLY
MANAGED
TO LURE
FABIUS OUT
INTO THE
OPEN...

HANNIBAL'S
RATIONALE IS
MOST LIKELY
TO AVOID
SHARING
PYRRHUS'
FATE.



TO DEAL
WITH THAT
TROUBLESOME
FABIUS ONCE
AND FOR ALL...

GRANTED,
IT'S A SHAME
THAT WE'LL
BE MISSING
OUT ON THIS
CHANCE



WHO
KNOWS
WHAT HE
IS TRULY
PLANNING...

AT
ANY RATE,
HANNIBAL
IS HARDLY
ONE TO
DIVULGE HIS
INTENTIONS.



BUT
PERHAPS
HANNIBAL
INTENDS
TO...

USE THE TRAPS
HE'S PLANTED
WITHIN ROME TO
EFFORTLESSLY
KILL FABIUS
INSTEAD.





IT'S A
FAIRLY
SIMPLE TASK,
SO WHY
HASN'T HE
DONE SO?

IF HANNIBAL
WISHED TO
REPLENISH
HIS RANKS,
COULDN'T HE
SIMPLY RECRUIT
FROM THE
GAULS TO THE
NORTH?



MAYBE IT'S
NOT THAT
HE DIDN'T
WISH TO,
SO MUCH
AS HE
COULDN'T?



THAT'S...
TRUE.



AND THOUGH
THEY HAVE AN
UNEASY ALLIANCE,
THEY'RE NOT
TAKING THEIR
ORDERS FROM
HIM BUT, RATHER,
ACTING ON
THEIR OWN...

PERHAPS THE
GAULS THAT
ARE RAMPAGING
THROUGH THE
NORTH AREN'T
EXACTLY UNDER
HANNIBAL'S
COMMAND.

ARE ACTUALLY
STANDING ON A
MUCH SHAKIER
FOUNDATION
THAN WE HAD
THOUGHT...

PERHAPS
HANNIBAL
AND HIS
BAND...

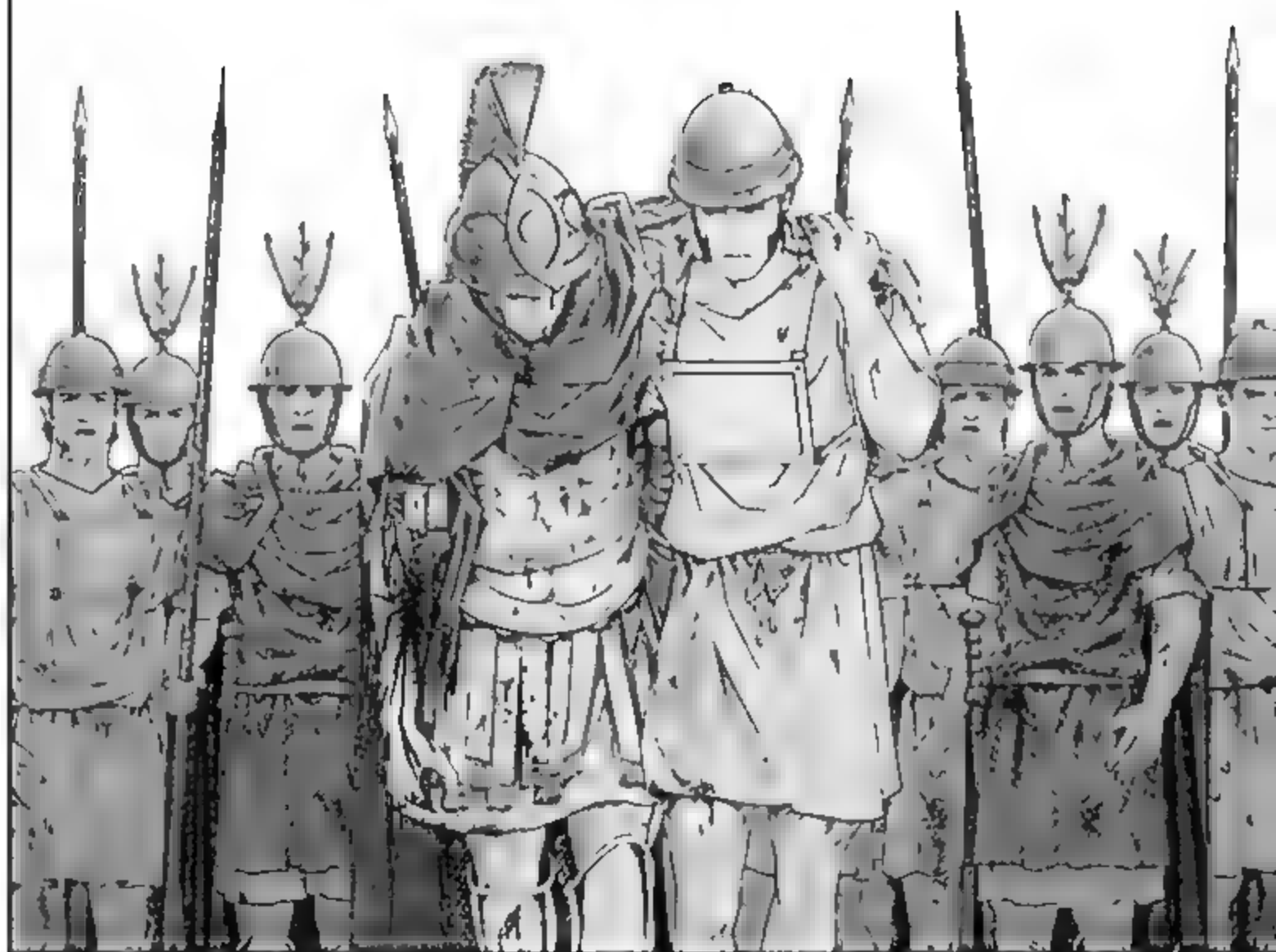
WELL,
THIS IS THE
FIERCELY
INDEPENDENT
GALLS WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT...

IT DOES
SOUND QUITE
PLAUSIBLE...

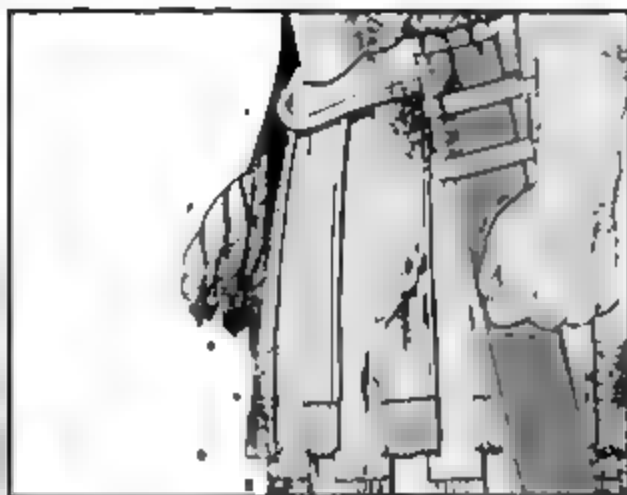
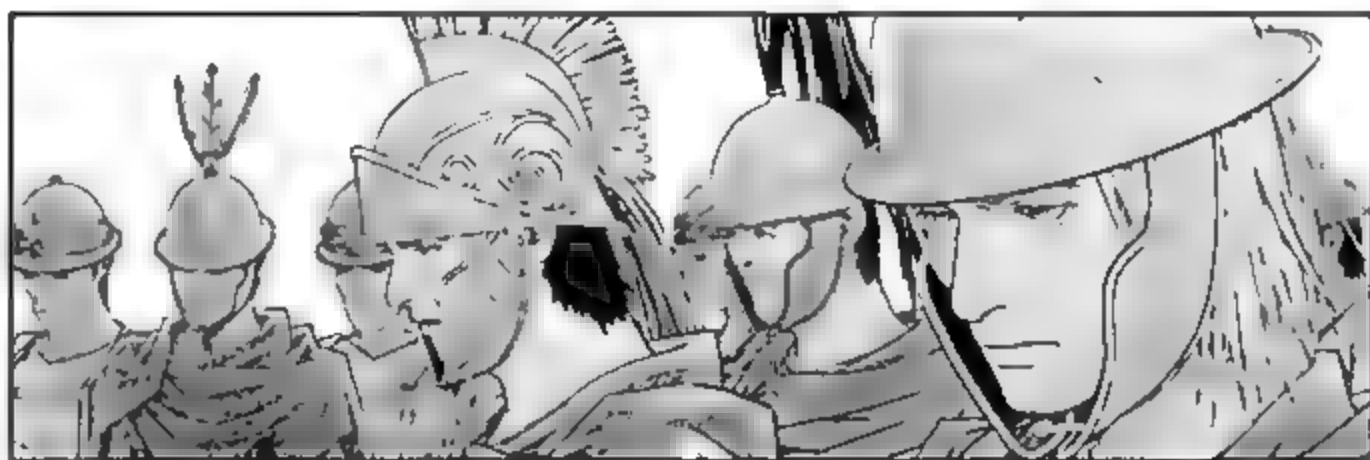
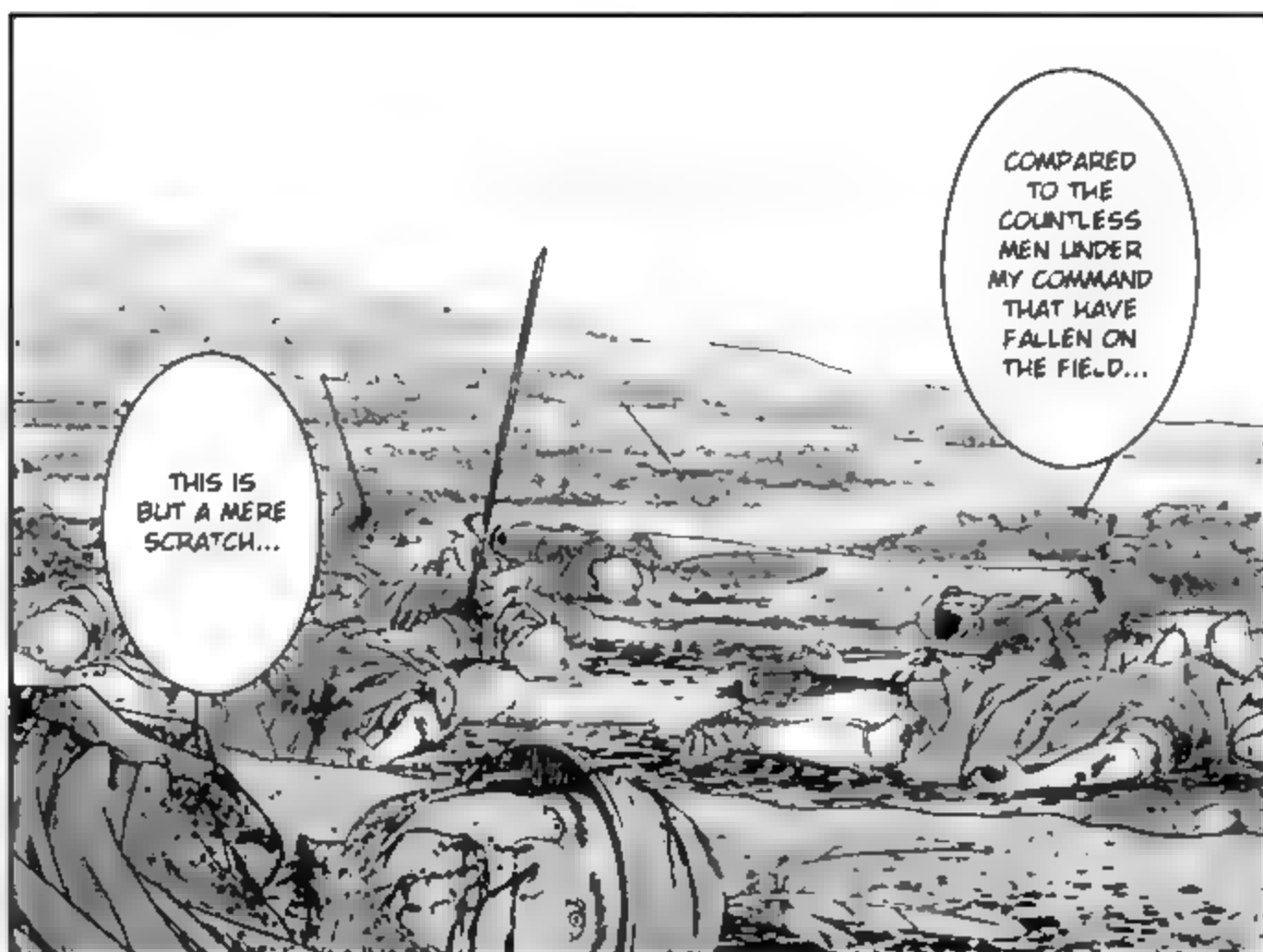
THIS COULD
PROVE TO BE
THE MEANS TO
DEFEATING
HANNIBAL...

IF THIS
TURNS OUT
TO BE TRUE,
THEN THINGS
WILL GET
INTERESTING
...

H-HEY...
OVER
THERE...
ISN'T THAT
GALLS?...
AND
DICTATOR
MINUCIUS
TOO!

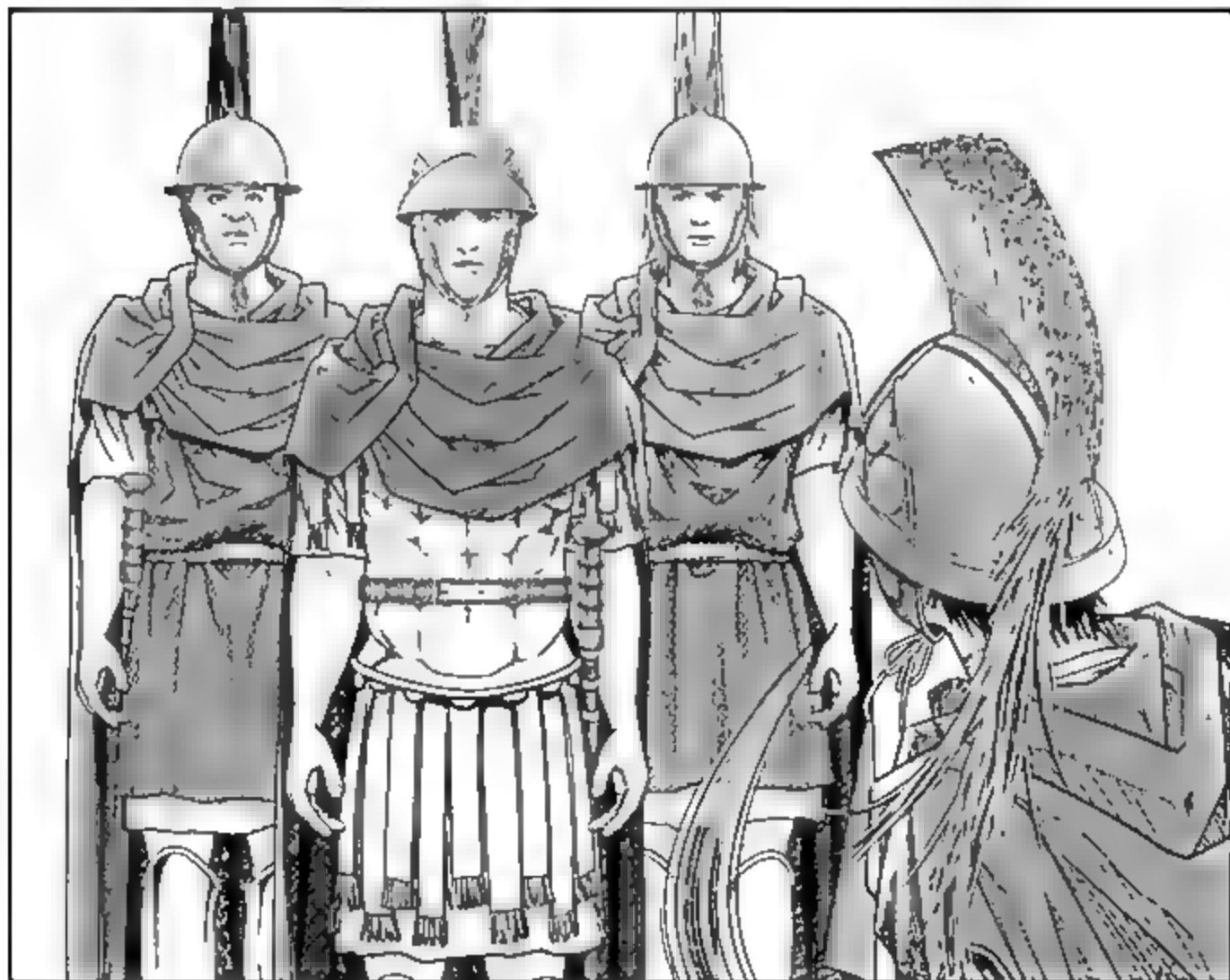


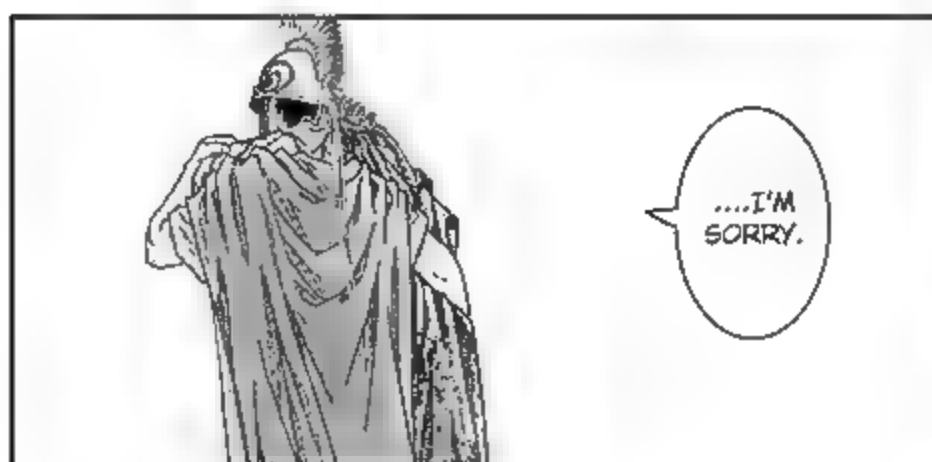
















WE
RETURNED
TO ROME...

...AND AS
WE ENTERED
WINTER
AND THE
DICTATOR'S
TERM
APPROACHED
ITS END...

THE ENEMY
THAT WAS
HIDDEN
AMIDST
OUR OWN
CITIZENS...

OBLIVIOUS
TO THE
TRAP THAT
HANNIBAL
HAD PLANTED
AND WHICH
AWAITED
US...

ザワ...

ザワ...

ザワ...

ザワ...



